

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MAY 21, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:06 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Drew Satariano, President
Brett Waterfield, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Harry Saltzgaver
Sarah Sangmeister

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Ramon Arevalo, Manager, Maintenance Operations
JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Manager, Community Recreation Services
Marc Gutfeld, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer, Planning and Development
Bob Livingstone, Superintendent of Golf Operations
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Jeff Winklepleck, Planning, Development Services
John Horne, Salvation Army
John McCann, Chairman, Municipal Golf Commission
Mike Duree, Livingston Tot Lot Committee
Diane Wiley, Partners of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2009

It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the April 16, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously with Vice President Waterfield abstaining.

President Satariano said he would take the KROC Center item at this time.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#09-0506

Recommendation to receive and file the KROC Center Development update.

Ms. Anna Mendiola said that the Department of Development Services asked to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission to give an update of the KROC Center development. Jeff Winklepleck, with Development Services, is going to give an overview and then there will be a presentation from the Salvation Army.

Mr. Winklepleck said that the Planning Bureau has been working with the Salvation Army for about two years on the KROC Center project at Pacific Coast Highway and Walnut Avenue. We are just wrapping up the Environmental Impact Report process and will be going to the Planning Commission in June and are on a fast track to get the project moving forward. He introduced John Horne to walk through the project.

Mr. Horne said that there are certain things that the Salvation Army will do in this project that are important to understand. There is a definite mission. This is a beacon of hope for the community. This is to provide services to people who normally wouldn't have that opportunity. It is to create a world-class facility that people will be able to go to for recreation or for an Olympic hopeful. He described the site and showed a presentation of the proposed plan. He said that the neighborhood requested that they have a site where they feel safe. The site will have monitored ingress and egress.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said the site still has to be a flood control basin. With the development, does it still maintain the proper amount for a flood control basin?

Mr. Horne responded yes, and they increase the amount of flood control area. There is some underwater storage as well. If there is a major storm, the buildings would still be dry because they are built at grade, equal to Pacific Coast Highway, and the water could be pumped out within 18 hours.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked how much of the administration building would be devoted to the chapel? Also, are they planning on regular services there or just for special events like weddings?

Mr. Horne responded that there would be regular Sunday services held there. The chapel would not be in the administration building; it would be in the performing arts building. On Sundays it would be used as a chapel and it could also be used as a music conservatory and a performing arts center.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if they have enough money to do it?

Mr. Horne responded that at this time everything is en route to be able to go ahead and do it.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the Department provides programs at the site now? If so, where would we put those groups?

Mr. Horne responded that he spoke with Dennis Thys, the Director of Community Development. We recognize that the people who are using that site now are not using it for free. The groups are paying to use the site. He is getting that fee schedule and if the KROC Center can match what the groups currently pay, they will make the Center's site available to those groups.

Mr. Hester said that it is only adult leagues that are playing in the site now. This should not be an issue.

Commissioner Sangmeister asked what the timeframe is for the project and to break ground?

Mr. Horne responded that once they break ground, it would take approximately two years to complete. It is dependent on when they would break ground. They cannot work on the project during the rain because the site is a catch basin.

Vice President Waterfield asked if they have any feel for fee structures?

Mr. Horne responded yes. Because of the Salvation Army and because of what Mrs. Kroc wants to happen, they would make sure people are able to use the center. If a person cannot afford to use the center, they won't have to pay. But someone would end up having to pay for that. For instance, in San Diego, it costs \$140 a year per person. A day pass costs \$5 per day to use the facility. There is a sliding scale based on a person's

income. A person might pay \$10 per year and someone else would pick up the difference. The center is designed specifically to make it available to everyone.

President Satariano said that this is a great center, but it is surrounded by City facilities and he is concerned that there needs to be more discussion with the people that currently service this community.

Mr. Horne responded that they had a firm come in who did a community needs analysis with that community. The facilities designed are specific to that community needs analysis. There are people that would like to see an ice rink, but the community did not want that. They are enthusiastic about the gymnasium and the pools. The Cambodian community said that they would be happy to use the facility, but they want to feel secure there. We are happy to discuss information with the Department and exchange information. It is a great opportunity to enhance each other's programs. This would also be a great place to hold swim meets and soccer meets.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

President Satariano said that they would go back to the regular order on the agenda.

III. LIVINGSTON TOT LOT COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

President Satariano introduced Mike Duree from the Livingston Tot Lot Committee. This has been a very successful public/private partnership with a neighborhood coming together and raising money and putting a park where there wasn't one. Evidently there was some money left over and they would like to make a donation to Partners of Parks. Diane Wiley is present to accept that.

Mr. Duree thanked the Commission for giving him the opportunity to come in and speak. He explained that the community members came together with the express intent of renovating the Livingston Park Tot Lot. It was a tiny park before and one of the most heavily used facilities in the city. It had fallen into disrepair. We were able to, in a very short period of time, raise over \$150,000, which the City matched. In about two and a half years the park was built. It is still one of the busiest little parks in the city. He presented Diane Wiley with a check for a little under \$1,600 for Partners of Parks.

Ms. Wiley said that she often drives by the tot lot and it is always packed. She appreciated what the committee did with this park. She said that this money would go toward the youth assistance fund for kids who can't afford classes.

IV. MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS BUREAU PRESENTATION

Mr. Ramon Arevalo introduced his superintendents and supervisors in attendance. He described each of his five divisions: Facility Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Beach Maintenance, Marine Maintenance, and Administration, with the help of a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked about the contract supervisor for landscaping.

Mr. Arevalo responded that the Grounds Maintenance supervisors meet with the contractor weekly.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#09-0501

Recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-0502

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a permit to ESPN, Inc., doing business as ESPN/RISE, for the use of Blair and Joe Rodgers Fields for the 2009 Area Code Games, from August 4, 2009 through August 10, 2009.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if this is a full-paid permit fee?

Mr. Hester responded that it is a negotiated fee that is significantly more than they previously paid.

Mr. Squires stated that is about \$12,000, which is almost 40% higher than they paid last year.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-0503

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit with Knowledge Learning Corporation® for the operation of a science camp from June 20, 2009 through August 26, 2009, at El Dorado Park West, Picnic Site A.

Mr. Hester stated that the program has been here for some time.

Commissioner Guerra asked if they offer scholarships?

Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner responded no, they do not.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-0504

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue the Tenth Amendment to Permit No. 23430 with A.J.'s Custom Picnics for a term of one year, through June 30, 2010.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#09-0505

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a revocable permit to St. Mary Medical Center, a subsidiary of Catholic Healthcare West, for the use of approximately 2,050 square feet of building space, at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 1150 East 4th Street, Long Beach, for the administration and provision of a physician-based ambulatory healthcare clinic for seniors, for a month-to-month tenancy subject to the discretion of the Director.

Mr. Squires stated that the Health Department ran an advisory clinic out of the Senior Center for many years. With this last round of budget reductions they had to reduce and close this item. The Senior Center has been without this service for about three months now. St. Mary's came forward quickly, offering not only to replace the service but also to upgrade it to a physician-based clinic. Our fee to them will be \$1 per month. Once

we go through a more formal RFP to get a real contract in place, they have offered to put almost \$40,000 in improvements for this and significantly upgrade the services to the residents and users.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said this was pretty amazing and asked how it came forward.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that the Health Department recruited St. Mary's when they knew they were going to have to close this office.

Mr. Squires said that this is the mission of St. Mary's, to provide health services to the poor and underprivileged in the downtown area. They will be getting what reimbursements they can through Medicare and Medicaid.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the offices would be in the same footprint as what is already there?

Mr. Squires responded yes, it is in the same footprint.

It was moved by Commissioner Sangmeister and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Recommendation to approve temporary recreation surcharge fee on certain rounds of golf in Attachment A for immediate implementation and running through September 30, 2010.

President Satariano introduced John McCann, President of the Municipal Golf Commission, and Bob Livingstone, Superintendent of Golf Operations.

President Satariano opened the public hearing and attendees were sworn in by Robin Black.

Mr. Bob Livingstone said that because of the City's budget crisis, staff has been looking into various ways to generate additional revenue from the golf operation. We presented some ideas to the Municipal Golf Commission. The Commission said that it was appropriate for the golfing public to try and help the Department at this time, provided that the burden was across the board and not in just one segment of the population or in one or two of the golf

courses. Also, any increases or assistance given to the Department would go just to the Department and not to the concessionaire, American Golf. The Municipal Golf Commission recommended the adoption of a temporary surcharge on certain fees that would be the least likely to result in a drop in play. Staff brought forth the attached surcharges. The fees on Long Beach resident seniors and all junior golf is less than on regular play. It is anticipated that this would be implemented on June 20, 2009. For the remainder of this fiscal year, that would be approximately \$50,000 back to the Department. For fiscal year 2010, approximately \$220,000 would come to the Department for recreation programs. Since none of these fees would go to the concessionaire, its implementation is not contemplated in the City Council approved lease with American Golf. The fee would have to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission under the City Charter, Section 902 (b). Staff is recommending that this be approved.

Mr. John McCann commended the Parks and Recreation Commission for the work they do. The initial proposal to raise green fees about \$7 at Recreation Park would have chased golfers away. We have great golfing here in Long Beach and we want to maintain it.

Vice President Waterfield asked why they chose to put in a fee reduction for all juniors as opposed to just Long Beach juniors?

Mr. Livingstone said that has been our philosophy. We have always tried to support all juniors, not just Long Beach residents. All junior rates apply to all junior golf, not just Long Beach junior golf.

Commissioner Waterfield asked if he has a sense of the numbers?

Mr. Livingstone responded that since the juniors don't have driver's licenses, there is no way to prove whether they are residents or not.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that a lot of people play on the 9-hole course at Heartwell Golf Course. What would they pay?

Mr. Livingstone responded that they would pay nothing. The surcharge is only on the 18-hole round of golf.

Mr. Hester said that the important thing to remember is that this is a temporary surcharge, a financial emergency type surcharge, and we want to watch the reaction very closely. We don't want to drive away golfers.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said it is important to note that American Golf still would be able to raise their regular CPI. When does that happen?

Mr. Hester responded that they have two options. They can implement the CPI adjustment October 1st, but it is negative right now. They could also submit a proposal for some other type of adjustment, but that has to go through the normal approval process.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that he played golf in St. George, Utah this last weekend and their golf courses are pretty well known and we are still cheaper for residents than St. George. He thinks our golf courses compare favorably.

President Satariano asked if any members of the audience wished to speak on this issue. There were none. He closed the public hearing.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that the Committee met and discussed the budget.

1) Selection of Nomination committee for 2009-2010 Officers

President Satariano asked Commissioner Saltzgaver to chair the Nominating Committee with Albert Guerra on the committee and that they bring back their recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the June meeting.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the Committee met and discussed the budget. The financial statement is included in the packet.

Mr. Squires stated that 50% of the year has passed and we are at 49% of our budget. The water charges are going up and Maintenance is working hard on a water plan to keep that number down. Recreation is going to have some increased expenses but they are working hard to keep their number down. For the current year we are in pretty good shape. The current plan for 2010 is rolling back to a 6% reduction for the departments, so we are working on that new list. It will take a very dramatic affect on recreation programs.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the 6% is dependent on the \$23 million giveback from employees, and that would include all employees including Fire and Police.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the Committee met this morning. The discussion was, in the face of the budget cuts, about 27 out of the 54 playgrounds will be unsupervised and we will have more time when community centers are not staffed. We are looking at reviving the Park Watch program, which was established but has been dormant. It is the Park Safety Committee's recommendation that staff look at reviving that program and making a big public push to try and gain even more public ownership in our parks. It accomplishes public relations, it shows we are being proactive, despite our budget cuts, and it improves the reporting in issues in parks so we can respond more quickly. We ask that Tristina Meche make the effort to find out about the program as it stands today. We don't want to wait until the August Park Safety Committee meeting; we want this to happen soon. That is our recommendation to the Commission as a whole.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that they also discussed park ranger staffing and that we don't have very many rangers. They are doing what they can. They also discussed the video surveillance pilot program. They would like to find out whether the camera at Drake Park had any impact and the costs thereof.

D. **MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE**
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that there was no meeting, but would like to jump on board on the Park Watch program. We see it as a valuable way to get the word out to our constituents and our users of our parks that we are in a budget crunch and the public needs to take responsibility and take ownership of the parks. If we can get more of these signs out and develop a marketing plan to help get the word out, that would be a good thing to focus on.

Mr. Hester said that the Department was planning on implementing the Park Watch program. The Department is also taking this opportunity to have a Volunteer Coordinator to coordinate all the volunteer services. We used to have a very active program years ago and it is important to look at now. I can see the Park Watch program under the Volunteer Coordinator. Recreation and Maintenance are working on some organizational changes that will allow more oversight at all of our parks. The camera surveillance is very important and the technology changes every day.

Commissioner Guerra said that Tristina Meche hopes to have a member of the Maintenance Operations Bureau included as part of the Park Safety Committee.

E. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield stated that the Committee did not meet, that they would meet in June. The Homeland groundbreaking went well.

Ms. Anna Mendiola said that Seaside Park is under construction so there are two big projects with that and Homeland. As part of a stimulus package, Neighborhood Services received Community Development Block Grant funds of about \$2 million. Most of that has been given to Parks, Recreation and Marine and they would be putting that on a City Council agenda in June. The funds would go toward the 14th Street Skate Park, the restroom at MacArthur Park, and additional revenue for a Pacific Electric right-of-way bike lane.

Mr. Hester said that this would go on the June 2nd City Council agenda.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra said that the Committee did not meet.

Mr. Hester said that the alcohol in the parks item should be going before the Parks and Recreation Commission in June.

VIII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

- A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for April 2009.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Satariano said that there was no correspondence.

X. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Satariano said that there was no unfinished business.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

President Satariano said that there was no new business.

XII. **COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Marc Gutfeld said that the Civil War Re-enactment is next weekend. The Audubon Society surveyed the area. Long Beach Unified School District students and Boy Scouts would be able to get in free. There will not be a school program on Friday, as the organization did not receive a response back from Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD).

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that the group should have focused on schools in walking distance from the event and should not have put in a request to the LBUSD office. Staff will suggest they do that next year.

Mr. Hester said that there was a newspaper article about leasing Blair Field. One of the items that came out of the Department's all management meetings was the possibility of selling or leasing Blair Field because it is a high-cost facility to run. There were some preliminary conversations with California State University, Long Beach, when they were looking at raising their student fees for several projects, including updating their stadium. They would prefer using Blair Field. City Council gave the OK to negotiate the contract.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner distributed a flyer for the Juneteenth event on June 13, at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

Mr. Squires said he would like to recognize the Department's Business Operations staff, particularly in the areas of accounting, budgeting, and purchasing. They have gone beyond the call of duty for several months.

Mr. Arevalo described what Maintenance Operations is doing to control water costs.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked what happened with the project to update the park's irrigation system?

Mr. Arevalo said that the project was denied.

Mr. Hester said that there is a proposal in the federal budget with Senators Boxer and Feinstein for \$1 million for irrigation in parks.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Saltzgaver thanked the Commissioners and staff for sending their condolences on the death of his father.

Commissioner Guerra said that he attended the public meeting on the Leeway Sailing Center, which was pretty interesting. Overall the community is in support of a change.

President Satariano said that he attended a Boy Scout awards ceremony and Commissioner Guerra was awarded with their prestigious Silver Beaver Award.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, June 18, 2009, at Admiral Kidd Park Community Center, 2125 Santa Fe Avenue, Long Beach.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine